



# Angel Ridge Pet Gazette

Animal Rescue



**Team Squinky**

We begin this issue by presenting two stories of this love and healing energy. First Squinky, a kitten who was trapped in a hole in the wall, with back legs completely paralyzed. Squinky underwent excruciatingly difficult physical therapy to regain the use of his legs. Now as a registered therapy cat, he brings comfort and joy to nursing home patients.

Next, is the story of Shar-pei, Lola, a sickly and blind dog dumped in the mountains in a rural area. She withstood medical treatment and a painful surgery to become loved by family, friends and an entire veterinary clinic. Later in this issue, you will read about Wyatt. This dog was unloved and neglected for at least eight years, and his human arranged for his death. Now he brings joy and healing to his mom, and happiness to the humans and dogs that he interacts with every day. We hope you are inspired by the stories of these remarkable “angels.” We would love to hear about the incredible companion animals that have taught you, loved you and healed you! ~Nancy Shannon

## **Crippled Cat Beloved for Ability to Do Laps**

~ Tawney Roddy and Faye Klein

The residents of the assisted living facility wait their turn to run their hands down a purr- motorized spine and enjoy the soft paws hugging their necks. This is the diminutive silver tabby’s most important job. He is a certified therapy cat.

Rescued at three months old, Zeus, as he was then known, was discovered trapped in a hole in a wall, his back legs paralyzed. When brought to the shelter, Barb- who oversees the cat care and adoptions - took one look at him and knew she had to save him. After a visit to her vet, and caring for him for a couple of days, she sought a foster home for Zeus. When I saw him online I knew instantly that it would be me.

Zeus was able to poop on his own, but needed his bladder expressed multiple times a day. Unable to support himself in the litter box, baths were a large part of our schedule.

## **We Rescued Them, Now They Rescue Others**

Through our animal rescue work that spans over two decades, we have met many dogs and cats who have overcome huge obstacles in their lives. They seemed to have a sense of their purpose here on earth, and that purpose often becomes to offer teaching and healing to their human companions.

**Spring 2023**

### **WELCOME TO OUR SANCTUARY!**

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With his back legs dragging behind him, he developed a distinctive way of scooting from point A to point B. I crafted preemie- sized baby diapers, by cutting a hole for his tail that he could wear when scooting around. Even though he only had two working legs, one day to my surprise, he scooted so quickly out of the room that I blurted, “Oh! Hey! Squinky!”, having momentarily blanked on his name. From that day on, he was Squinky. Over a few weeks, we noticed a bit more movement in his back legs. As time rolled on, between frequent visits to the vet, and at- home PT, Squinky steadily gained strength and movement in his back legs. A big triumph was when he learned how to use a short- sided litter box on his own. By then, Squinky had scooted himself into our hearts, and we made it official by adopting him into our family circus of dogs, cats and four alpacas.



**Squinky**

We added a few chiropractor visits to the various medical interventions, and saw more improvement. Despite all of the bladder expressions, baths, vet and doctor visits, Squinky always remained a sweet and loving cat. Yes, he vocalized his displeasure along the way, but it was as if he knew it was all about helping him. Through every procedure, we became more emotionally attached to each other.

For the past few years, I intended to volunteer for Pet Partners with my alpacas. I finally did become a volunteer - but not with my alpacas- with Squinky. We passed our team evaluation with a perfect score, granting Squinky and me membership in the Pet Partner Therapy Cat Team. He loves to visit the assisted living residents.

Starting life as a crippled kitten, Squinky has become the cuddly companion to comfort folks who miss so much having a pet. His disability, such as it is, only endears him more deeply with the people who adore the “thera-cat” experience with this most uncommon cat.

## **(SHAR) Pei-ing it Forward**

~Faye Klein

Spring had barely sprung in the Laurel Highlands, when I found myself all alone in a deserted campground. I was scooped up by a kind lady with a badge, whose job it is to help dogs and cats in trouble, like me. I was brought to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue a hot mess, utterly unaware that Val was in no shape to take me on as a foster. Exhausted from chemo and radiation, Val’s hair was finally back when I showed up - a flea- bitten, glaucoma- stricken, malnourished,



**Lola Post Surgery**

cranky- pants of a Shar-pie, nuzzling her hand with my manatee muzzle. But she couldn't say no to my swollen hocks, bulging eyes, and a coat like a ratty vintage 60’s crushed velvet couch.

After months of meds, baths and good food, followed by the removal of my eyes (ICK!) to relieve my pain, my hair came back and I snuggled with Val while we both embarked on further healing.

Before my stitches were removed, Val learned that she needed more radiation treatments and she panicked about what would happen to me. Despite newsy blurbs and posts about my incredible progress, nobody wanted a middle- aged, black, blind, feisty Shar-pei.

Sharpies are a bit of a dog oddity, yet there's a surprising coterie of diehard fans whose passion for the breed runs as deep as my wrinkles. It was the very day that Val had to leave me, that my Shar-pei Sherpa appeared, having herded 2 Shar-peis, an aging Greyhound, and her dad into her SUV to travel 90 miles to meet me.



**Lola and Mom, Dr Stephanie**

After hours of gentle, patient introductions- nose to nose, nose to butt, and vice versa - baby steps with each pairing to encourage acceptance and foster harmony, I said sayonara to the shelter and slept like a hibernating bear the entire trip back to Ohio. Just an hour later, Val departed for her week- long medical stay. We had a few minutes to say goodbye, but the serendipity & synchronicity of the people, the timing and the purpose could not have been more acutely aligned.

My veterinarian mom has an infinite reservoir of patience. Working with all of us step- dogs has given her more confidence & incentive to take an even bigger leap- to add little humans to our family someday.

Mom's co- workers coo over me. I can't see their toothy grins, and they are equally blind to my sightlessness, remarking at how much I've enriched mom's, Val's, and even her dad's lives. Mom emails messages and photos, letting Val know that we are A-OK and hoping she is too. We're even closer with her dad now. He initially tried to dissuade mom from adding me to the pack, but he'd steal me now if he could. He visits daily to avail himself of a dose of my gratuitous displays of affection that radiate from the top of my brow to the end of my tale.

### **Angel Ridge Wish List**

Our needs are great for the volume of animals we care for at Angel Ridge.

Monetary donations are welcome as well as these products used daily at our shelter.

Fancy Feast Canned kitten food - chicken or turkey  
 Royal Canin Canned Mommy & Baby / kitten food  
 Pro Plan canned kitten food - liver and chicken  
 KMR Milk replacer powder - 1st step  
 Inaba Churu cat treats  
 Frontline Plus for cats  
 Frontline Gold for cats  
 Wet Swiffer Pads  
 Clorox Spray and Wipes  
 Trash Bags

Frontline Plus for dogs  
 Purina One Dog food  
 Greenies Dental Chews  
 Martingale collar w quick snap buckle  
 Anti allergen and medicated pet shampoo  
 Copy paper  
 Postage stamps  
 HE liquid laundry detergent  
 Canon 245 & 246 Ink cartridges



AMAZON.COM  
**Amazon.com: Angel Ridge animal Rescue: Angel Ridge Wish List**  
 Amazon.com Universal Wishlist for Angel Ridge animal Rescue.

**ORDER DIRECTLY ON AMAZON** <https://tinyurl.com/5dv4br8s>

and deliver to 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd, Washington, PA 15301



### **Cat & Kitten Fosters Needed**



Fosters are especially needed for the rescue kittens.  
 Kittens must live in a foster home until they are 12 weeks old.  
 We provide supplies, expertise and support. If you are interested or have questions,  
 please contact Barb at [jacob.75293@aol.com](mailto:jacob.75293@aol.com)



## “Motorboat Toby” Stole Their Hearts

Toby may have been someone's loving kitty at one time. Shayne, an animal lover, found him living outside her apartment complex. For three years, she left food and water on her porch every night for the little guy. She constructed shelter after shelter for Toby, only to have them destroyed by the apartment manager. Toby's only chance at any warmth at all was to try and huddle up against the apartment building.

Finally, Shayne reached out to Barb Brown, cat program manager for Angel Ridge. Toby came to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue in January, 2022. He had wounds on his neck, severe congestion and tested positive for FIV.

For one entire year, Toby's socialization was a “work in progress.” Gaining Toby's trust was a slow process, and with the help of churu treats, Toby eventually became comfortable interacting with the volunteers as they did their cat care duties. Volunteers Omar and Jeff were especially dedicated to Toby.

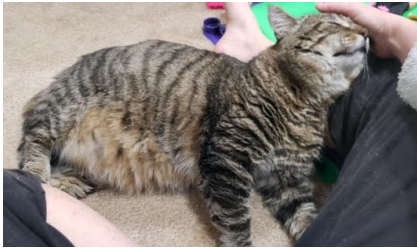
New volunteer, mom Heather, and son, Noah, took a tour of the cat area after their orientation in November, 2022. Just one look, and Toby decided to adopt Heather and Noah as his human family. Heather tells us:

“Toby came out of his cage, and with his signature motorboat purr, he stole our hearts.”

Heather describes Toby as a “cautious sweetheart” that found hiding places throughout their house for the first four weeks. But he finally knew that he was loved and safe, and found a buddy in fellow FIV positive cat, Cappy. Toby's favorite hobby?

Serenading his family and the outside birds with his signature motorboat purr.

Purr on, Toby !



### \* About FIV + Cats

*Most FIV positive cats don't show symptoms and have a normal life expectancy, although they can be prone to secondary infections. FIV cats can live happily in a stable household with other cats, both FIV and non FIV. The virus can only spread to other cats from deep wound bites, and*



Toby purring during his head rub

Toby after his rescue



**PLEASE HELP OUR ANGELS AT  
ANGEL RIDGE ANIMAL RESCUE**

Mail this form and your donation to  
P.O. BOX 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to:

(please choose one of these categories)

\_\_\_ General \_\_\_ Emergency \_\_\_ Gathering of Guardian Angels Program  
Contribution Vet Care (\$200 Annually or \$50 quarterly)

You can also donate through PayPal, [aranres@yahoo.com](mailto:aranres@yahoo.com)



## Tiny Warrior Brings Joy and Healing

A lady opened her door one day to find a sickly and dirty little poodle huddled in a basket on her front porch. She took him inside and called Angel Ridge Animal Rescue.

We gave the little guy a bath and made him comfortable in our adoption office. He was blind, malnourished and his teeth that remained in his mouth were badly decayed. The little poodle's back story started to unfold. He lived his life tied to a kitchen chair with a short rope. He was fed with table scraps, when they were available. He was terribly neglected and unloved. Then one day, his human handed him over to an acquaintance and said, "Just get rid of him."

Instead of killing the little dog, the acquaintance made the decision to anonymously place him on the porch of a neighbor who was a well-known animal lover.

At Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, the little poodle tried very hard to navigate his surroundings, and he just could not get enough cuddling. We found this dog to be an inspiration as he fought hard to compensate for his blindness, and weakness of body. He was appropriately named Wyatt, which means "warrior."

Wyatt was put on several medications and had to have all of his remaining teeth removed. He desperately needed a calm foster home in which to heal before he could be adopted. Volunteer, Becky, stepped forward to become this needed Angel in Wyatt's life. Becky had recently lost her beloved dog and her mom, who was ill for a long time and resided with her.

In agreeing to foster Wyatt until he was ready for adoption, Becky was challenged as to how to make her two-story townhome safe for this spunky blind pup. Baby gates were everywhere, and Wyatt felt safe in his crate when Becky had to leave him for a short time. A few months of healing time, and Wyatt was ready for a home of his own. We approved the application of a senior lady, a widow, who met Wyatt at Becky's home and fell in love with him.

But Becky had done her own soul-searching and realized that Wyatt was the answer to her prayers. Her fear of being hospitalized for an extended time due to cardiac issues, was the reason she felt that she needed to give up Wyatt to an adopter. She realized that she could make arrangements with a friend to take Wyatt temporarily if she would become hospitalized.



Wyatt when he came to Angel Ridge



Wyatt's Christmas Photo

Wyatt's adoption was finalized and Becky was now his forever mom. They have embarked on a wonderful new life together. Mom and dog are the dynamic duo. Wyatt goes everywhere with Becky and loves his car rides. Becky is a member of the Washington County emergency animal response team, (CART) and Wyatt attends team functions and training with her.

Both Becky and Wyatt have experienced a transformation, both physical and emotional. The brisk one-mile walk that they take every day has improved Becky's cardiac health. Wyatt prances along as though he can see his surroundings. They have met many wonderful new friends, both human and canine. In fact, Wyatt's physical transformation has been so extraordinary that some neighbors thought that Becky had adopted another dog. Becky tells us that Wyatt's best canine "bud" is a 10-year-old boxer who lives on their street.

For the first time in his life, Wyatt has experienced the joy of playing with toys. His favorite toy is a stuffed lemur. The lemur sleeps in bed every night with Becky and Wyatt. If Wyatt forgets to bring his lemur to bed, he goes to his crate to get it. Sometimes, if company comes, Wyatt hides his lemur so they won't take it with them. If Becky wants Wyatt to come to her, a squeak of the lemur is all that it takes to get Wyatt up and running.

Becky and Wyatt have rescued one another. They are better together in every way, and life is wonderful. They are so healthy and happy.

***"I adopted a dog that had no teeth, was blind, and not house broken.  
Don't be afraid to give a dog like this a home with you.  
I rescued him and he rescued me." (Becky)***

### Our Angel Tree of Hope

Your monetary donation in honor of a loved one or in memory of someone who has passed will keep our Angels happy and healthy and ready for a new home. Our Angel Tree of Hope, located in our Adoption Center, will hold a special heart, with a name inscribed, for each of the loved ones you remember in this very special way.

A beautiful card will be sent to the loved one that you are remembering. We can send the card to you or mail it directly to your loved one.

**\$40 provides a rabies shot .      \$75 will enable us to buy a Kuranda dog bed.      \$100 will pay for a spay or neuter.**

**\$150 will keep our buildings' lights on for a week.      \$200 provides heat in our kennel building for one week.**

**Thank you for remembering our Angels.**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one: \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: Send the card to me \_\_\_\_\_ Send the card to the person I am remembering. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please provide the name and address below. )

Name of loved one or family (if in memory) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please mail this form to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347**



**TREE OF HOPE**



## Our Gathering of Guardian Angels

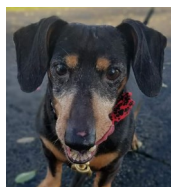
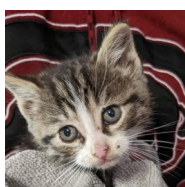
All through the pages of this newsletter, you have read about dogs and cats that have come to us with significant veterinary needs.

In our cover stories, you have read about sickly and blind dog, Lola, and crippled cat, Squinky. Then we presented Wyatt's story. Wyatt suffered abuse for many years, and his owner wanted his life to be ended. He was discarded like the trash. His recovery, and new-found life and love, are nothing short of incredible.

Our philosophy is that an injury or sickness that can be healed is no reason to end an animal's life. We have a special program of caring contributors named the Gathering of Guardian Angels. These Guardian Angels contribute \$50 quarterly, or \$200 per year to this program. The program is there to provide the funds for needed medicines or surgeries for the dogs, cats and kittens who come to us with extraordinary veterinary needs. Please consider joining this elite group of contributors, Angels, who provide the needed extra financial help for our little angels. We don't ever want to refuse entry to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue because we don't have the funds to heal them.

To join, mark the Gathering of Guardian Angels box on the donation form on page 4.

Thank you and God bless.



**Volunteers, Foster Families, and Pet Lovers are always in need to assist Angel Ridge's ongoing efforts.**

**If you have room in your home or time on your calendar, please consider this rewarding opportunity !**

**Scan the QR code to learn more ....**

**Or contact us at [aranres@yahoo.com](mailto:aranres@yahoo.com)**





Mail: P.O. Box 94, Meadowlands, PA 15347  
Site: 390 Old Hickory Ridge Rd., Washington, PA 15301  
724-229-7053 | [www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org](http://www.angelridgeanimalrescue.org)

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:**

## **Calendar of Events**

**PetSmart, first Saturday of the month 12- 3**

**Washington Petco, third Saturday of the month 12- 3**

**St. Paw-tty's Day @ Pet Supplies Plus McMurray, Saturday, March 11th (11-2pm)**

**Easter Bunny Photos @Pet Supplies Plus McMurray, Saturday, April 8th (11-2pm)**

**Kitten Shower @ Pet Supplies Plus McMurray, Saturday, May 13th (11-2pm)**

**Allison Plan Neighborhood Garage Sale - Chartiers Twp, Date TBD**

**Pet Friendly Picnic @ Pet Supplies Plus McMurray, Saturday, July 8 (11-2pm)**

*Check our website . [Angelridgenaimalrescue.org](http://Angelridgenaimalrescue.org) and Facebook page for more events to be added.*

*You can meet many of our kitties at Pet Supplies Plus, McMurray, during business hours.*